

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1113 - HB 1182

March 10, 2013

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to initiate the investigation of a report of suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an adult within 24 hours of receiving the report instead of as soon as practical.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increased State Expenditures – \$594,000/One-time
\$6,909,100/Recurring**

Assumptions:

- According to DHS, current Adult Protective Services (APS) policies relative to priority response and reconsideration will be altered if DHS is required to initiate the investigation of a complaint within 24 hours.
- According to the APS Policy Manual (2011) on the DHS website, intake staff review reports based on criteria established by policy. The intake staff will assign a report with an appropriate priority and investigative staff person or screen out the report.
- According to the APS Policy Manual, there are three priority levels: A, B, and C.
- According to the APS Policy Manual, Priority A reports must be assigned immediately. Face-to-face contact or an interview must be initiated by a counselor or law enforcement by midnight of the day of the report.
- According to the APS Policy Manual, Priority B reports require face-to-face contact or an interview within 1 to 7 working days, depending on the emergent nature of the allegations. Priority C reports are assigned immediately or placed on the priority register for assignment based on availability of staff. Once a Priority C report is assigned, face-to-face contact or an interview is required within 1 to 7 working days.
- According to the APS Policy Manual, a report may be reconsidered and placed on a different priority or screened out based on new information gathered.
- According to DHS, the priority system and reconsideration will not be compatible with the 24 hour requirement.
- According to DHS, additional staff will be required to initiate investigations within 24 hours of a report because the current priority system enables staff to be assigned to multiple counties and to handle reports that take more time to initiate due to the complexity of a situation. DHS estimates that one social counselor per county and one social counselor for every 100 reports per county per year as well as additional field supervisors and program supervisors will be required.

- According to DHS, 135 additional staff will be required (111 social counselors, 19 field supervisors, and 5 program supervisors).
- According to DHS, the total increased one-time state expenditures required for additional staff will be \$594,000 [135 additional staff x \$4,400 (\$3,300 office landscaping + \$200 wiring + \$900 computer/printer)].
- According to DHS, the increased recurring state expenditures required for additional staff will be \$6,909,113 (\$5,737,923 + \$848,910 + \$322,280):
 - 111 social counselors x (\$32,200 salary and taxes + \$10,493 benefits + \$2,400 travel + \$6,600 office space, office supplies, telephone, and LAN/WAN) = \$5,737,923;
 - 15 field supervisors x (\$36,500 salary and taxes + \$11,094 benefits + \$2,400 travel + \$6,600 office space, office supplies, telephone, and LAN/WAN) = \$848,910; and
 - 5 program supervisors x (\$43,400 salary and taxes + \$12,056 benefits + \$2,400 travel + \$6,600 office space, office supplies, telephone, and LAN/WAN) = \$322,280.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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